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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Thailand

DATE DISTR. 6 July 1951

SUBJECT Seizure of Premier Phibun by the Thai Navy

NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE
ACQUIRED 25X1ANO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THE FOLLOWING REPORT WAS PREVIOUSLY
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A-2. 1. Premier Phibun Songgram was seized by Royal Thai Navy elements during the ceremony of handing over to him the former U.S. Navy dredge Manhattan on 29 June 1951. Phibun was removed by tender under guard. So far there has been no bloodshed.*

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. The information contained in paragraphs 2 - 4 below reporting a possible coup attempt was received shortly before that contained in paragraph 1 and will serve as background data of possible significance in connection with the Premier's abduction.

2. A line-up of Thai Army and Navy factions are organizing with the intention of ousting the Phin Chunhawan-Phao Sriyanon group. This coalition has Phibun's blessing if not actually his active support. The plotters will charge Phin and Phao with "cooperation with the Communists".**

3. Princess Poon Diskun has spoken of a forthcoming coup attempt. One of her informants, reported to be a young radical, stated that this effort would be a "blood bath". Prasert Phongsunthorn, also known as Bunlon, also spoke of the possibility of a coup in July which he believes would benefit the Pridi faction.

4. A coup is in the making but no details are available.

25X1A * [REDACTED] Comment. There is a possibility of Pridi's return in connection with this seizure of Phibun.

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25X1A ** [REDACTED] Comment. This charge is apparently intended to prevent any possibility of Western misinterpretation of the coup.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. It is possible that pro-Communists may infiltrate the new group.

25X1A *** [REDACTED] Comment. This coup may take place in July or August 1951.

25X1A See [REDACTED]

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